



School Social Work Services

A vital link between home, school and community

School Social Work License Requirements

This document summarizes the licenses required of school social workers for LEA and AEA administrators and for practitioners. It provides links to other sites with more detailed explanations. It is important for educators to know that social workers can be fully licensed pupil service providers in Iowa. However, in order to be fully licensed to practice in schools a social worker must hold two separate licenses.

One license enables an individual to practice as a professional social worker in Iowa. The second license enables a licensed social worker to practice in schools.

The License to Practice Social Work

The **Board of Social Work Examiners** provides several levels of licensure to social workers in Iowa (See Iowa Code 1/10/01, 2/21/01, Ch 280, p. 1, Professional Licensure [645] for specific license requirements). Two of these levels are acceptable for school social work practice. They are the LMSW (Licensed Master Social Worker) and the LISW (Licensed Independent Social Worker).

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1. The Master Social Worker (LMSW) must:

- Possess a master's degree or PhD. in social work from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.
- Have passed the intermediate level examination of the ASWB (Association of Social Work Boards)
- Have previously and will in the future conduct professional activities as a master social worker in accordance with standards for rules of conduct described in rule 645—280.213(154C).

2. The Independent Social Worker (LISW) must:

- Possess a master's or a doctoral degree in social work from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education
- Have passed the clinical level examination of the ASWB (Association of Social Work Boards)
- Have engaged in the practice of social work at the master's level, under supervision, for at least two years (or 4,000 hours) as a full-time employee
- Have been supervised by a social worker licensed at the independent level (LISW).

The License to Practice Social Work in Schools

Social Workers must be licensed by the **Educational Examiners Board** to practice in schools. The Educational Examiners Board provides two options that license social workers to “serve e as a school social worker to pupils from birth to twenty-one” (<http://www.state.ia.us/educate/boee/speced.html>).

Option 1: School social work endorsement.

The individual applying for this endorsement must have:

- ♦ A Master's degree in social work from an accredited school of social work, including a minimum of twenty hours of course work related to assessment, intervention, resource coordination, and education and a practicum in a school setting. The study must include:
- ♦ Courses in general education issues such as school law, foundation of education, and psycho-educational measurement
- ♦ Courses in special education such as exceptional children and special educational regulations.
- ♦ A practicum experience in a school setting under the supervision of an experienced school social work practitioner. The practicum must include experiences in assessment, direct services, consultation, community liaison and documentation. If the individual has served as a school social worker for two years the practicum experience can be waived.
- ♦ Completion of an approved human relations component (*Individuals completing the approved school social work program at the University of Iowa are exempted from the human relations course because the content is included in the regular master's degree curriculum*)
- ♦ Preparation that contributes to the education of the handicapped and the gifted and talented.

❖ The University of Iowa's School of Social Work offers an approved program in school social work that leads to the school social work endorsement. For more information about the school social work endorsement in Iowa, contact Kate Kemp, Program Administrator, at the University of Iowa, School of Social Work, 308 North Hall, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1223, kate-Kemp@uiowa.edu, 319-335-1254. (See below)

Option 2: Statement of professional recognition (SPR).

The special education director (or designee) of an area education agency or an administrator in a local school district can submit a letter to the Board of Education Examiners requesting that an SPR (statement of professional recognition) be issued.

The candidate for the Statement of Professional Recognition must have:

- ♦ An official transcript reflecting the master's degree (or PhD) in social work
- ♦ A license at the LMSW or LISW level from the Iowa Board of Social Work Examiners
- ♦ Documentation of completion of the human relations component.
 - A temporary SPR (statement of professional recognition) can be issued for one school year for individuals that have not yet completed the human relations component or fulfilled the supervision requirement for a social work license. The individual must complete the human relations component by the end of the first year.
 - **Temporary SPR:** A temporary SPR will be issued for one school year. An approved human relations course must be completed before the start of the next school year. The applicant must provide evidence that the human relations component has been fulfilled within the required time frame.

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Advantages and Disadvantages

At first glance, it may appear that Option 2 is the least complicated route to school social work practice. However, this option has some disadvantages to the practitioner. The holder of an SPR can continue to practice as a school social worker throughout their career. However, in order to become a school social work supervisor or a special education administrator, one must either hold the regular school social work endorsement or complete the requirements for a teacher's license under the Board of Educational Examiners.

- ♦ Many school social workers in Iowa area education agencies have moved on to other careers in education. Some have become school social work supervisors and special education administrators. Because the school social work endorsement is relatively recent, many of those individuals either came to school social work practice after having been licensed as a teacher, or went back to school to complete a teaching license. Now that school social workers can be endorsed for school social work practice they are able to earn other endorsements in education without going back for a teaching license.
- ♦ Social workers planning a career in education should consider the importance of having the Educational Examiners school social work endorsement. An “approved program” leading to that endorsement is available at the University of Iowa’s School of Social Work. Individuals that have already completed an MSW from the University of Iowa can submit a transcript to the Kate Kemp to determine what if any additional work would be needed to be eligible for the endorsement. For information contact Kate Kemp, Program Administrator, at the University of Iowa, School of Social Work, 308 North Hall, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1223, kate-Kemp@uiowa.edu, 319-335-1254.
- ♦ Social Workers that have an MSW from another state that includes a program equivalent to the approved program at the University of Iowa and/or have practiced as a school social worker in another state could apply directly to the Educational Examiners Board for the school social work endorsement.

Links:

<http://www.state.ia.us/boee/speced.html#School%20social%20worker>

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure/common/pdf/sw_specific_faqs.pdf

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure/common/pdf/sw_supervision_requirement.pdf

http://www.uiowa.edu/~socialwk/msw_program/msw.htm

The Official Approved School Social Work Program at the University of Iowa

*This program is being updated. Contact Kate Kemp (see above) for information.

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE OF IOWA ENDORSEMENT FOR SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK

The Curriculum detailed below which is offered by the School of Social Work in cooperation with the College of Education meets the Chapter 1 STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ORIGINAL SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER ENDORSEMENT – Endorsement 15.3 (15)

School of Social Work Courses

Students complete the 48 semester hour curriculum (if they have a BA in Social Work from an institution accredited by the Council on Social Work Education) or 60 semester hour curriculum. Either of two concentrations are acceptable. (A delineation of these courses is attached). Included in the 48 or 60 semester hours are the following required courses:

42:233	School Social Work	2 s.h.
42:296	Advanced Practicum in School Social Work	
6 s.h.		

College of Education Courses

	General Education - <u>choose at least one of the following:</u>	2-3
s.h.		
7F:120	Politics of Education	
7F:210	Education and Social Change	
7F:102	History of American Education	
7S/7E:101	Introduction to Education	
*7E:300	Design and Organization of Curriculum	
7F:130	Educational Sociology	

Special Education

7U:130	Exceptional Persons	3 s.h.
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Choose at least one of the following: 3 s.h.

7U:132	Introduction to Behavioral Disorders	
7U:131	Introduction to Learning Disabilities	
7U:135	Mental Retardation	
7U:240	Behavioral Principles	
7U:134	Parent-Teacher Communication	
7U 136	Home-School Community Partnerships	

7U:117
*7D: 236

Improving Outcomes for People with Disabilities
Administration of students with Special Needs

Human Relations Component

This requirement is satisfied by completing the entire MSW as approved by a waiver request granted by the State. Contact Program Administrator for more information.

Practicum Sites

Any of the Area Education Agencies in the State of Iowa. Other school districts by arrangement. Supervision of student must be provided by an experienced School Social Work practitioner/Licensed Social Worker.

Application information for initial application for Iowa School Social Work Endorsement is available at:

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<http://www.uiowa.edu/~edstuser/Certification/app3info.html>

*Courses contribute to Supervisor Special Education Support Endorsement. See Program Administrator for more information.